

Officer Advanced Course Handbook

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1. CONDUCT OF INSTRUCTION

[Purpose](#)

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Learning Objectives](#)

[Homework](#)

[Student-Led Instruction](#)

[Classroom Procedure](#)

[Guest Speaker](#)

[Distribution of Instructional Material](#)

[OAC Statement of Academic Ethics](#)

[Graduation Criteria](#)

[Small Group Instruction \(SGI\)](#)

CHAPTER 2. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

[Company Administration](#)

[Privately Owned Vehicles \(POVs\)](#)

[Student Absences](#)

[Uniforms](#)

[TDY and Return](#)

[TDY En Route](#)

[FT Sam Houston Personnel](#)

[Duty Moves](#)

[Per Diem](#)

[Personal Weapons](#)

[BOQs](#)

[CHAPTER 3. PHYSICAL FITNESS](#)

[Physical Fitness](#)

[Weight Control](#)

[Physical Training](#)

[Student Athletic Program](#)

[CHAPTER 4. OFF DUTY INFORMATION](#)

[On Post Recreational Facilities](#)

[Off Post Recreational Facilities](#)

[Points of Interest in San Antonio](#)

[APPENDIX A. GENERAL](#)

[Army Medical Department](#)

[U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School](#)

[Fort Sam Houston](#)

[San Antonio](#)

[Climate](#)

[Transportation to Ft. Sam Houston](#)

[Reporting](#)

CHAPTER 1

CONDUCT OF INSTRUCTION

1-1. Purpose. The Officer Advanced Course provides small group learning to educate and train officers of the Army Medical Department for duty as staff officers, commanders and other positions of responsibility within the Army.

1-2. Weekly Schedule.

a. The class schedule is based on an 8-hour day, 40-hour week. This revised format entails extensive class preparation and research on the individual's time. Students must come without distractions, prepared for a long, demanding workload.

b. Classroom hours are normally 0830-1630 on Physical Training (PT) days and 0730-1630 for non-PT days, but may vary due to the nature of small group instruction.

c. On day 3 you will be administered a comprehensive examination covering Phase 1. You will also be given a Combined Arms War exam and an English diagnostic exam.

1-3. Learning Objectives.

a. Each subject area is accompanied by "learning objectives." These learning objectives are the focus of the instructional process at OAC.

b. A learning objective is a statement of instructional intent that states what the student must be able to do (actions and outcomes) as a result of instruction.

c. As students begin each new lesson, they receive an advance sheet. It contains lesson preparation requirements, terminal learning objectives (TLOs) and enabling learning objectives (ELOs). TLOs specify the major learning outcomes for the lesson. Each lesson usually has from one to ten TLOs. ELOs, on the other hand, specify learning outcomes which must be mastered first in order to accomplish the TLOs. ELOs are usually associated with individual lessons.

d. OAC learning objectives consist of three major components: a task, a condition, and a standard. The task specifies what the student is able to do as a result of instruction. The condition states what the student is given to accomplish the task, and the environment in which the task is to be performed, if necessary. The standard specifies how well or to what criteria the task must be performed. Time constraints may be part of the standard. For

those learning objectives that require the student to produce something (ex. OPLAN), the standard may specify what is to be included in the product.

e. TLOs and ELOs are printed on the advance sheets for subcourses and lessons. Study efforts should be keyed on the learning objectives. All evaluation items will relate to specific TLOs or ELOs.

1-4. Homework.

a. The academic day is a combination of scheduled instruction and individual study (homework).

b. Students are accountable for all homework assignments, class participation and evaluations such as quizzes, written papers, and practical exercises.

c. Homework requirements are indicated on lesson Advance Sheets. The course requires a tremendous amount of outside reading and numerous writing requirements. **Note: Since, the resident OAC Phase II builds upon the material you received during the correspondence Phase I, it is highly recommended that you bring your Phase I books (or CD) with you.**

d. Students are also highly encouraged to bring a personal computer, with printer, and a supply of diskettes for use with your homework assignments.

1-5. Student-Led Instruction.

a. Concept. Students lead or facilitate staff group instruction activities. Selections for these assignments are made by the faculty staff group leader. Criteria for selections, in descending order of priority, are as follows: (1) need for specific specialized expertise--this permits each class to take best advantage of expertise within the student body; (2) general selection from the class as a whole--this permits learning through role playing in positions in which the selected student has little or no previous experience; (3) generated need to evaluate or further evaluate a specific student; and, (4) approximate equity in student workload. **While all four criteria are applied, students should understand that enhanced learning, not rigid equity, is the principal consideration along with group participation.**

b. Absence from Scheduled Instruction. Should illness or other emergency prevent attendance by a student at a scheduled oral briefing or during presentation of a lesson, the student will immediately notify his faculty small group instructor.

1-6. Classroom Procedures.

a. Student classroom participation is strongly encouraged and emphasized throughout the course and is part of the evaluation criteria.

b. Smoking and the use of other tobacco products are prohibited at AMEDDC&S.

c. Following are administrative details pertaining to classrooms and building facilities:

(1) Do not modify the arrangement of classroom furniture unless directed to do so by your faculty staff group leader. Classroom furniture or equipment will not be removed from the classroom.

(2) Do not write on tack boards.

(3) Remove all material and trash from the classroom at the end of each day.

1-7. Guest Speakers.

a. General. At times, the OAC may have a military or civilian guest speaker address the student body in Blesse Auditorium in support of scheduled instruction.

b. Student Participation.

(1) The last portion of each guest speaker session is normally designated as a question and answer period. Your question should be brief, clear, pertinent, and searching. Multi-part questions should be avoided. Questions should not be read.

(2) When recognized by the guest speaker, the questioner rises, states his rank and name, asks his question, then is seated. Speak slowly and distinctly so that the guest speaker can hear and understand your question.

(3) Attempts at humor are risky and often considered unprofessional.

c. Traditional Courtesies.

(1) The audience **will** be seated before the speaker arrives at the beginning of the period and at the conclusion of breaks. Three minutes prior to the start of the guest speaker's presentation, the doors to the auditorium will be closed and everyone seated.

(2) If a senior member of the faculty is present, the audience will be called to attention as he/she first enters the auditorium. The audience stands again upon completion of the presentation as the senior faculty member exits the auditorium.

1-8. Distribution of Instructional Material.

a. Classroom.

(1) A distribution box is provided for each student in their assigned classroom. Orders, memorandums, instructional material and communications pertaining to individual officers are placed in these boxes. When materials are placed in student boxes, it is considered delivered, and students are responsible to know the contents. If you lose or misplace such material, contact your faculty small group leader.

(2) Students are required to check their boxes and the bulletin board upon arrival in their respective classrooms each and every morning and clear their boxes at the end of the day.

1-9. OAC Statement on Academic Ethics.

Professional ethics **is** of paramount importance to the integrity of the Officer Advanced Course. Work presented by students as their own, **will** be their own. To do otherwise results in unfair advantage and is inconsistent with professional ethics and integrity. Academic ethics as it relates to the duties of the students is viewed as follows:

"The application of ethical principles in an academic environment, giving and receiving only authorized assistance, and conducting legitimate research and properly attributing credit to sources of information."

a. The preceding statement and following amplifications are intended to assist the vast majority who want to do the right thing and, thereby, encounter a more productive learning experience. They are not intended to be a vehicle to catch any who might be inclined to violate professional standards.

b. The following guidance is provided for specific areas, but is not all inclusive.

(1) Plagiarism, defined as follows, will not be tolerated at OAC: "Plagiarism is the presentation of another's writing or another's ideas as one's own. Legally, socially and academically it is considered a form of theft." (Writing With a Purpose, 4th Edition, James M. McCrimmon.) Plagiarism covers more than copying another's work word for word. The unattributed use of only a portion of another's work also constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is prohibited.

(2) Students will not:

(a) Possess or use copies of solutions to practical exercises that have not been issued to the section or staff group to which that student is assigned.

(b) Possess, use, or transfer copies of evaluations, evaluation solutions, lesson solutions, or any other controlled issue materials that have been used in any AMEDD OAC resident course prior to the administration of the evaluation instrument to the individual, section or staff group to which a student is assigned.

(c) Reproduce, disseminate or discuss graded lessons, evaluation questions, or solutions from other resident AMEDD OAC courses where possible compromise may occur.

(d) Computers, like typewriters, are tools to aid the student in preparing lessons and writing papers. Because of their data storage capability, they are sometimes used to store information prepared by individuals to meet curriculum requirements. Using another user's programs or information stored in any of the AMEDDC&S computers or personal computer, as your own, is considered plagiarism.

c. If uncertain about what is allowable, ask your small group leader.

d. To preclude compromise of the evaluation process, students and facilitators will refrain from discussing or otherwise exchanging information on evaluations or quizzes within the hearing of unauthorized personnel. The student evaluation process is designed to determine the assimilation and comprehension of the student for each lesson and to provide information for curriculum design and improvement. Deliberate or unintentional disclosure of evaluation/quiz content invalidates the evaluation process.

e. Prior to reporting any suspected violation for official action, the alleged offender will be confronted. Understandably, this is a difficult situation, but this process may preclude unnecessary emotion and the frustration encountered by reporting someone because of a misunderstanding or misperception. After confrontation, if it is felt a violation may have occurred, the following reporting procedure should be used:

(1) Students report to their Small Group Leader, who reports to the Team Chief. The Team Chief reports suspected violation(s) to the OAC Branch Chief.

(2) Staff and faculty report to their respective branch chief, who in turn reports to the department director.

f. Violations are serious breaches of ethics and are cause for academic disqualification, administrative action and/or punishment under the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Students may be dismissed from the course under the provisions of paragraph 1-10, AR 351-1. Care will be taken on the part of all faculty members to ensure all students receive due process protection of their rights.

1-10. Graduation Criteria.

To graduate a student must:

- (1) Fully meet course standards.
- (2) Pass the final Army Physical Fitness Test.
- (3) Meet height and weight standards.

1-11. Small Group Instruction (SGI).

a. General.

(1) Education at the AMEDD OAC is a function of reciprocal relationships between three essential and interrelated components: the

faculty, the student, and military doctrine. It is in this context that beginning with Academic Year 1997, AMEDDC&S adopted staff group level instruction as the cornerstone of its educational methodology.

(2) During SGI the emphasis shifts from only acquiring information to applying that information to a wide variety of situations. The result is a student who is prepared to think, to make decisions, and to translate those decisions into actions.

b. SGI Roles. Small group instruction comprises a wide range of techniques for structuring the relationships between students, instructors, and the curriculum.

(1) Role of the Student. In SGI, the challenge to learn is placed on the student. Through mutual planning, students are responsible for much of their own learning and professional development. Students are encouraged, by the very structure of the learning situation, to develop cooperative relations within their small group. In the small group learning environment, students learn through interaction with the body of knowledge being studied, their facilitator, and other small group members.

(2) Role of the Small Group Leader. Rather than being a dispenser and transmitter of knowledge, the facilitator in SGI helps students investigate issues and clarify and solve problems. Facilitators plan and select materials which make up a large part of the learning environment, including the way in which students organize themselves for the learning process. The facilitator assesses the progress and specific needs of the individual and the group, and provides tailored, in-depth responses and feedback.

(3) Role of the Curriculum. The SGI method of instruction is designed to foster an environment that produces group cohesion, camaraderie, peer learning, and leadership in numerous and varied situations. It is not a contract with requirements to be rigidly fulfilled but a flexible learning environment with a wide latitude of freedom concerning how learning objectives will be met. The curriculum allows students to discuss and reflect upon Army doctrine and apply principles during staff exercises and other group projects.

c. Benefits of Small Group Learning. There is ample research to indicate that students learn most effectively when they are actively involved in their own learning. Because small group instruction can offer this active involvement, learning is better internalized and retained. Here are some benefits of small group learning:

(1) Most students tend to perform better on intellectual tasks when working with others. The presence of other small group members working on the same problem increases motivation to perform well.

(2) Students gain a clearer understanding of the material when they interact with the facilitator and other students. Since much informal learning occurs in families and other social groups, students are accustomed to learning in groups.

(3) Most students enjoy interacting with others in social, athletic, and educational groups. Satisfaction and enjoyment of learning is increased when participating with others.

(4) Students often learn faster in groups than individually. However,

such factors as content matter and individual motivation influence the learning process.

(5) Small group instruction gives students a chance to become actively involved in a secure setting. It is a good place to develop confidence in academic and other abilities.

(6) Small group instruction provides an excellent way to implement higher level learning. It involves students in analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating concepts. Small group instruction is in itself a higher level learning activity.

d. Feedback and Evaluation. The nature of small group level instruction requires that evaluation be largely subjective. It is through subjective evaluation that the facilitator can consider: Did the student perform to his or her ability? Did he or she contribute to the staff group effort? Was the learning objective standard met or exceeded? The final assessment of a student's academic performance must, therefore, be based on subjective and objective judgments, but emphasizing the former.

e. Small Group Training.

(1) Students do not learn to work in small groups automatically.

They must be trained to do so by their small group facilitators. Training begins during the first few days of the ten week course when each small group facilitator conducts group dynamics training. Then, throughout the nine week core course, the facilitators observe their small group's performance and provide feedback required to enhance learning.

(2) Facilitators are also responsible for small group instruction (SGI). At the start of each separate unit of instruction, facilitators establish course parameters and outline procedures and policy related to the SG process. Throughout the course, facilitators meet to develop strategies to tailor instruction to the small group's needs. SG training is a continuous process throughout the nine week course with input from students and facilitators.

f. Guidelines for Students. SGI places great demands on the small group and its individual members. To succeed, each student must contribute to the learning process through active participation in all group activities. The following guidelines are provided to assist students when participating in SGI.

(1) Come Prepared. SGI requires that all out of class requirements be completed. Facilitators expect students to come to class prepared to discuss homework and ideas pertaining to it. In particular, information contained in doctrinal publications needs to be thoroughly studied and understood.

(2) Stick to the Task. Small group members must learn to focus on the task. Plan and use time judiciously and utilize course learning objectives as yardsticks in performing all tasks. Consult with the facilitator early if any

doubt exists concerning how the task is to be performed.

(3) Accept Risk. In its most effective form, SGI works best in a no-fault, non-threatening atmosphere where students learn from their mistakes. Students should take chances during interaction with other staff group members. They should make suggestions and share ideas even if doubt exists that they will be accepted by the staff group.

(4) Provide Candid Feedback. Students should be open and candid in the SGI environment. Better learning will take place when students engage in "give and take" discussions with other small group members and instructors. Use critiques to enhance learning and development of individual skills.

(5) Be a Good Listener. Effective listening is a difficult skill to develop. During SGI, however, listening is one of the most critical skills for successful interaction and learning. Students must develop listening skills that will allow them to clearly focus on the subject being discussed.

(6) Take Charge when Required. Working in small groups sometimes requires that one or more students be responsible for guiding the learning activity. Students selected to guide units of instruction must make special effort to prepare a meaningful learning experience for other group members.

(7) Share Experiences. Learning in small groups is greatly enhanced when students share past experiences. Experiences that relate to doctrine and its application in the field are particularly important.

(8) Support the Facilitator. OAC facilitators perform a variety of tasks during SGI. They are teachers, facilitators, administrators, advisors, and evaluators. The demands of these tasks require support and assistance from each member of the small group. SGI works best when the facilitator and members of the group function as a team supporting each other in achieving course learning objectives.

CHAPTER 2

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

2-1. Company Administration. Company A, 187th Medical Battalion, Center Brigade provides command and administrative support for all officer students. Coordination of all in-processing, out-processing, and liaison with Post agencies is accomplished through the unit. The Orderly Room is located in Bldg. 1002. Hours of operation are 0730-1700. A Staff Duty Noncommissioned Officer (SDNCO) is located at 187th Med Bn HQTs, Bldg. 1385 during all non-duty hours.

a. Phone Contact Point. Your relatives or friends may reach you by calling (210) 221-3122 during normal duty hours or may leave a message for you with the SDO/SDNCO after duty hours at (210) 221-4996. Emergency calls will be delivered to you as quickly as possible. In case of extreme emergency, the nearest Red Cross should be notified by your family.

b. Mailing Address. Your mail room for picking up mail is located in the basement of Aabel Hall (Bldg. 2841). Mail may be picked up Monday through Friday between 1130 and 1530. Personnel in a course longer than four weeks receive a post office box approximately one week after arrival. Express packages are not accepted at the mailroom and must be picked up at A Co. 187th Medical Bn, Bldg. 1002.

The mailing address is:

CPT John Doe (SSN)

Course #

A Company, 187th Medical Bn

2054 Gorgas Circle Bldg 1002

Ft. Sam Houston, TX 78234-6112

2-2. Privately Owned Vehicles (POV)

a. Due to a shortage of parking space in the vicinity of Willis Hall, walking, biking, and car pooling is encouraged. Weather permitting, officer students living in the Bachelor Officer Quarters (BOQ) are urged to walk or bike daily.

b. A parking plan has been developed to allocate, as equitably as possible, available parking spaces and to provide for orderly utilization of access routes. Parking space is divided between students and permanent party on a per capita basis and provides both groups with some parking facilities at and adjacent to Willis Hall. The most distant parking space is approximately 3 minutes walking time from Willis Hall. Students will be

informed of the parking plan by their small group facilitator and should become familiar with this plan and park in authorized spaces only. Military Police patrols inspect parking lots and issue traffic tickets to violators, which is payable to a magistrates court, not the military.

2-3. Student Absences.

a. Ordinary Leave. Ordinary leave will not be granted during scheduled periods of instruction.

b. Emergency Leave. Requests for emergency leave may be submitted at any time. During duty hours requests will be submitted through the Class Advisor to the Company Commander for approval. After duty hours approval will be granted by the Company Commander through the SDNCO located at

Bldg. 1385.

c. Pass. Absence of 96 hours or less on weekends and holidays is authorized, provided no duty is missed. Should absence from duty be involved during the contemplated period of absence, the student must obtain permission from the Chief, Medical Operations Branch (MOB). The officer will provide the SGL with information as to how he/she may be reached in case of emergency.

d. Sickness or Injury. Sick call is held at Brook Army Medical Center Acute Care Clinic. Sick call starts at 0530 and ends at 0815, Mon - Fri. After duty hours, report to Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) emergency room. To go on sick call, a student must report to Company A to receive a sick call slip before proceeding to the TMC. An officer placed on quarters by the TMC or hospital will notify their SGL immediately. During non-duty hours, students must receive a sick call slip from SDNCO located at 187th Med Bn HQTs, Bldg. 1385 and return to A Co the first duty day.

e. Absence from Instruction. For official absences other than those listed in 3-3, a through d above, the officer must obtain advanced permission to be absent from scheduled instruction. Guest speakers are scheduled instruction. If the absence is to be two hours or less during core curriculum courses, the small group leader may grant the approval. Absences in excess of the above requirements must be approved by the Chief, MOB.

2-4. Uniforms.

a. Military Uniform.

(1) See AR 670-1.

(2) Unless otherwise specified, the standard uniform for classroom instruction is the Army Battle Dress Uniform (BDU).

(3) Students may wear the Army Class B uniform and the Army Dress Blue uniform on special occasions.

(4) Refer to Appendix C, AR 670-1, for officer uniform requirements. Refer to Appendix D, AR 670-1, for authorized mandatory possession/wear out dates and items no longer authorized for wear.

2-5. Personnel TDY and Return. If you are in a TDY and return status, (traveling on DD Form 1610), i.e., you will return to the installation you came from, **you must make arrangements with your home installation for a Government VISA prior to departing for Fort Sam Houston, Texas.** Personal credit cards can no longer be used for TDY expenses.

2-6. Personnel TDY En Route. Active duty personnel here for temporary duty en route to their permanent duty station must also obtain a government credit card prior to arrival at Ft Sam Houston.

a. Per diem if living on post will be approximately \$31.00 a day for a room and \$9.50 for meals. Only those officers who meet the requirements of the Joint Travel Regulation U4400, Ch 108 will receive per diem for living off post.

b. Students are highly discouraged from bringing their families to OAC.

2-7. Personnel Assigned to Fort Sam Houston. A DD Form 1610 is necessary for enrollment in the course. A Certificate of Completion of Phase 1 is insufficient. The memorandum to attend the course dictates you obtain a DD Form 1610. Failure to obtain a DD Form 1610 from your unit will delay any administrative assistance you need.

2-8. DITY. If you travel by POV, and drive a van, jeep, truck, or blazer type of vehicle, you may qualify for a DITY move. Ensure your orders authorize a 600 lb. hold baggage shipment and have your round trip DITY paper work completed at your home station before you depart.

2-9. Per Diem. You are not entitled to per diem if any of the following apply:

a. You received your orders in San Antonio.

b. Your home of record is San Antonio.

c. You will be assigned to Ft. Sam Houston following the OAC.

2-10. Personal Weapons

a. Officers bringing personal weapons must register their weapons on post at Bldg. 367 (In and Out-processing).

b. Weapons are not authorized in the BOQ and must be turned in for safe keeping to the Academy Battalion arms room. Coordinate this turn-in with the A Co. TAC Officer when you sign in.

c. Concealed weapons are not authorized on post and are only authorized off-post with a valid Texas State permit.

2-11. BOQs.

a. Officers will live in Bldgs 1384 or 592. The following house rules apply to both buildings. **You cannot pay your billeting bill until 10 days prior to departure.**

(1) Each room has a microwave and a refrigerator. There are kitchens on each floor, however, cooking stoves/ovens are not available. All electrical cooking utensils must be unplugged when you leave your room. Dining facility hours and locations will be provided upon arrival.

(2) No open flames at any time. This includes candles, incense, sterno, etc.

(3) The phone system and individual heat/cooling devices are scheduled to be upgraded/installed during FY97. Your patience is appreciated while this takes place.

(4) All valuables must be kept locked up at all times. Ft. Sam Houston is an open post, so secure your vehicle.

b. Tampering with Fire Alarms/Smoke detectors is a Federal Offense. The smoke detectors in your BOQ room may sometimes go off when condensation from the shower builds up. If this happens, contact the Fire Department immediately. DO NOT disconnect the alarm as it will disconnect the entire wing, and you put several other people at risk. Disconnecting the alarm also sends a signal to the Fire Department and they will respond.

CHAPTER 3

PHYSICAL FITNESS, WEIGHT CONTROL AND ATHLETICS

3-1. Physical Fitness. All officers attending the OAC resident course will take a record physical fitness test within 72 hours of arrival. This test is the standard US Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) as described in FM 21-20. It is important that you come to the OAC in top physical condition ready to pass the APFT. The physical fitness test you take shortly after your arrival will be for record and your score will be reflected in your academic evaluation report.

3-2. Weight Control. All officers will be weighed when they report to Bldg. 592. Officers who do not meet the tape test **will not be enrolled** in the course and **will be returned** to their unit. In addition, a letter signed by the Commander, Center Brigade will be forwarded to unit commander.

3-3. Physical Training(PT). Physical training is conducted every Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 0600 hrs. Each small group will conduct its own physical fitness program under the supervision of its small group leader. The Army gray PT uniform is worn during physical fitness training. Bring your military regulation gray PT uniform, to include sweats, running shoes and a pair of non-marked white mid-calf socks.

3-4. Student Athletic Program. The battalion and brigade hold monthly intramural sports tournaments throughout the year. The events include basketball, volleyball, flag football and softball. If you are interested in participating on the A Co. teams, please contact your TAC Officer.

CHAPTER 4

OFF DUTY INFORMATION

4-1. On Post Recreational Facilities. Fort Sam Houston offers recreational facilities which include two of the finest 18 hole golf courses in the Southwest, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a 28 lane bowling alley, a theater, horseback riding, gymnasiums, outdoor basketball, tennis, volleyball, and handball courts.

4-2. Off Post Recreational Facilities.

a. Canyon Lake is available to active duty military personnel assigned to Fort Sam Houston for a period of more than ten days. It has picnic and camping areas, fishing equipment on a loan basis, rental boats with or without motors for fishing and water skiing. There is a limited Post Exchange facility for purchasing health and comfort items and other supplies. Additionally, there are two and three bedroom trailers which may be rented for periods of three days. These trailers are air conditioned and equipped with a stove, refrigerator, hot and cold running water, latrine and shower facilities.

b. Tours of San Antonio and points of interest in the vicinity are conducted periodically by Leisure Sales and Services. They also reserve tickets to various outdoor and indoor attractions such as concerts and sports events which can often be purchased at a discount price.

c. Hunting and fishing opportunities in the Southwest are almost unlimited. Rabbit, squirrel, deer, turkey, duck, geese, and both fresh and salt water fish abound in areas close to Fort Sam Houston. License is required.

4-3. Points of Interest in and around San Antonio.

a. **Downtown Areas.**

(1) The Alamo, the "Cradle of Texas Liberty," is located on Alamo Plaza in the heart of San Antonio. Originally, it was the chapel of mission San Antonio de Valero founded in 1817 by the Franciscan Fathers for the purpose of educating and christianizing the Indians. In 1836, during Texas' struggle for independence from Mexico, it served as the fortress where some 180 Texans, vastly outnumbered by Santa Anna's opposing army of some 5,000, fought and fell to the last man rather than surrender their ideals of freedom. "Remember the Alamo" became the battle cry that spurred the Texans to victory on the battlefield of San Jacinto where, less than two months later, Texas won its independence. The Alamo is open weekdays and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with no admission charge.

(2) The Alamo Cenotaph on Alamo Plaza was erected as a memorial to the fallen heroes of the Alamo whose names are inscribed on the sides of the

monument.

(3) Winding its way through the city, the San Antonio River crosses six miles of streets and passes under 42 bridges. The San Antonio River Walk follows the river throughout the downtown area. The riverbanks have been landscaped and beautiful stairways of various designs lead down from the bridges to the river, shady flagstone paths permit a walk through town 20 feet below street level along the picturesque riverbanks. There are convenient boat landings and, for a small charge, boat rides may be taken any day between 2 p.m. and 9 p.m.

(4) La Villita, "Little Village," is located on South Presa and Villita streets. This remnant of the oldest residential section of San Antonio consists of a group of restored, thick walled, rock and adobe buildings erected more than two centuries ago. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with no admission charge.

(5) The House, 593 Villita Street, is an excellent example of early San Antonio architecture. This is the house where on 9 December 1835, Mexican General Perfecto de Cos signed the articles of capitulation after the Texans had captured San Antonio. Visiting hours are the same as those of La Villita.

(6) The Ameson River Theater is built on the riverbanks of the San Antonio River behind the Cos House. The stage is constructed on one side of the river and the amphitheater seats are on the opposite side. This unique outdoor playhouse forms one of the charming nooks of San Antonio.

(7) The Spanish Governor's Palace is located on the West side of Military Plaza. This historic building, which still contains many of its original furnishings and fixtures, is the former official residence of the Spanish Governors when Texas was a province of Spain. The Hapsburg coat of arms carved on the keystone above the entrance bears the date of 1749. There is a small admission charge.

(8) San Fernando Cathedral is located on Main Plaza west of the Courthouse. Having begun its existence as an early mission founded in 1749, this is now the oldest parish church in Texas. During the siege of the Alamo, it was used by Santa Anna as an observation point

(9) Municipal Auditorium, on Auditorium Circle, three blocks north of Houston Street, is an indoor entertainment center having a seating capacity of 6,500. It is a limestone structure of Mediterranean design noted for the beauty of its architecture. It was built as a memorial to the World War I dead.

(10) The Old Hemisfair '68 Arena, located about two blocks south of the Alamo on South Alamo Street, is still in limited operation as Hemisfair Plaza and offers several points of interest, including the Tower of the Americas, Theater of the Performing Arts and Convention Center.

b. *Brackenridge Park.*

This park comprises 327 acres of some of the most beautiful park land in the United States. The park includes:

(1) Witte Memorial Museum, containing archaeological and pioneer displays, fine arts, and other exhibits. It is open Mon.-Sat from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tues. 10:00 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sun. 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. There is a small admission charge.

(2) Sports facilities - municipal golf course, tennis courts, polo field, and bridle paths.

(3) Pioneer Log Cabin, a replica of an early Texas dwelling.

(4) Pioneer Memorial Hall is dedicated to the Texas Pioneers, Texas Rangers Trail Drivers. It is the official headquarters of the "Texas Trail Drivers", an association of men who conducted cattle drives up the primitive trails. It is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

C. Chinese Sunken Gardens.

Located adjacent to Brackenridge Park. It is an abandoned rock quarry transformed into one of America's most beautiful gardens.

d. Sunken Garden Theater.

Near the Chinese Sunken Gardens, is an outdoor theater of classic design with natural scenery for its background where San Antonio civic operas and concerts are presented.

e. San Antonio Zoological Garden.

These gardens are located on 70 acres and host a modern zoo, ranking among the nation's finest and containing over 2,000 rare birds and animals from all parts of the world, in a setting resembling their native habitats. It is open every day with a small admission charge.

f. Alamo Stadium.

Major sporting events are staged at this municipality owned enterprise. The stadium is built in the shape of a bowl and has a seating capacity of 23,000.

g. The McNay Art Institute.

This institute hosts a distinguished collection of art by modern French masters, American and European watercolors, the F.G. Oppenheimer collection of Gothic and Flemish art and contemporary American Indian and New Mexican Santos. The paintings are exhibited in a richly ornamented, modified Spanish type structure built on a hill. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge.

h. Joe Freeman Coliseum.

The Coliseum is a county owned enterprise with a seating capacity of 12,200. The Livestock Exposition and Rodeo, Boy Scout Jamboree, Ice Show, Home Show, Circus, and other similar events are staged here.

i. Missions.

Within a radius of 8 miles south of San Antonio, on Mission Road, are the remnants of four of the oldest Spanish missions in the United States.

Established by the Franciscan Friars more than two centuries ago, each of these missions was once the center of a thriving community. What remains of them now is little changed in appearance from their original state and testifies to the ingenuity and enterprise of the builders. All of the missions are open daily.

j. *Institute of Texan Cultures.*

Located within the Hemisfair Park, the Institute of Texan Cultures is a component of the University of Texas in San Antonio. In it, 26 different ethnic groups are displayed and serve as an interpretation of Texas history and culture. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday with guided tours available. There is no charge but donations are accepted.

k. *San Antonio Botanical Center.*

The Botanical Center is located just outside of Post at 555 Funston St. The diverse representation of Texas landscape can be found in the 38 acre garden. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday and holidays. There is a nominal admission charge.

APPENDIX A

GENERAL INFORMATION

A-1. Army Medical Department (AMEDD).

a. The first medical officers were authorized by the Continental Congress and appointed as Army surgeons just a few weeks after the Army was established in 1775. However, the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) and the Office of The Surgeon General (OTSG) were not established on a permanent basis until 1818.

b. The AMEDD is composed of six corps and is headed by the Surgeon General whose office is in Washington, D.C. The Surgeon General is a Medical Corps officer appointed by the President of the United States for a term of four years.

(1) Medical Corps (MC). This corps originated with the appointment of the first medical officers in the Army in 1775. Members of this corps not only perform the professional duties of medical officers but also function in administrative, command and advisory capacities within the AMEDD.

(2) Dental Corps (DC). The appointment of dental surgeons as officers in the Army was authorized by Congress in 1901 and the Dental Corps was established by the Congressional Act of 1911 as a part of the AMEDD. Members of this corps, like those of the MC, also perform administrative and advisory duties in addition to their professional duties.

(3) Veterinary Corps (VC). This corps was established in 1916. In addition to its responsibility for animal care within the Army, the VC has responsibilities in the areas of preventive medicine, food inspection, and research and development. The Veterinary Corps is currently the only tri-service branch within the military.

(4) Army Nurse Corps (AN). The use of civilian female nurses in Army hospitals was authorized at the time of the Civil War (1861-1865), however, the ANC was not established until 1901. Congress authorized the commissioning of male nurses in 1956.

(5) Medical Service Corps (MS). In 1920, Congress approved the inclusion of 140 officers in the AMEDD as the Medical Administrative Corps. The nucleus of this corps was made up of members of the Sanitary Corps which had been established in 1917. In 1943, a Pharmacy Corps was established. In 1947, the MSC was established to embody all functions of the Sanitary Corps,

the Medical Administrative Corps, and the Pharmacy Corps - all of which it replaces. In addition, the supply, optometry, and allied sciences sections were included.

(6) Army Medical Specialist Corps (SP). The Army Medical Specialist Corps was established in 1947 and is composed of commissioned officers who are Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Physician Assistants, and Dietitians.

A-2. U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School (AMEDDC&S). With the completion of the new school complex in December 1972, the facility was designated the Academy of Health Sciences, United States Army (AHS). In October 1991, it was redesignated as the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School (AMEDDC&S). Since its establishment in 1920, the AMEDDC&S has graduated more than a quarter of a million students.

A-3. Fort Sam Houston.

a. Fort Sam Houston, Texas is one of the oldest military posts in the United States. In 1870, the city of San Antonio donated 40 acres to the U.S. Government in the northeast section of the city known as "Government Hill" for establishment of a permanent Army Post. This was followed by a 43 acre donation in August 1871, and seven additional acres on 1 June 1876. In 1879, the Army began occupying what is now known as the Quadrangle, presently the Headquarters of the Fifth United States Army.

b. The birth of military aviation occurred at Fort Sam Houston on 2 March, 1910, when Brigadier General Benjamin Foulois, then a lieutenant in the Signal Corps, on duty at Fort Sam Houston, flew a government purchased Wright biplane. A hangar was located on North New Braunfels Avenue on what is now MacArthur Field.

c. Following World War I, Fort Sam Houston was the home of the "battle famous" 2nd Infantry Division. In 1929, the Quadrangle was completed and at that time was occupied by the 9th Infantry Regiment. Brooke General Hospital was completed in December 1937. Many of the Army's greatest leaders have served at Fort Sam Houston and have included such figures as Generals Ord, Schofield, Bliss, Wood, MacArthur, Pershing, Eisenhower, Wainwright, and many others.

d. Since the inception of Fort Sam Houston, United States troops have been stationed on this post continuously, training for defense against Indian uprisings, for action in the Spanish American War, for World Wars I and II, and for the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. A conservative estimate of 1,350,000 soldiers have trained here.

e. Today, Fort Sam Houston consists of 3,330 acres and 1,500 buildings, with four major commands located here: Headquarters, Fifth United States Army; Headquarters, Fort Sam Houston; Brooke Army Medical Center; and U. S. Medical Command. In October 1995, the post command transferred from FORSCOM to MEDCOM.

A-4. San Antonio. From its earliest days, the city of San Antonio has been the military center of the Southwest. It had its beginning as an Indian village. Many interesting landmarks still exist as silent reminders of bygone eras in San Antonio's colorful and romantic history. Today, it is a city with a population in excess of 1,200,000 and with the facilities typical of a modern metropolis.

A-5. Climate. San Antonio enjoys a subtropical climate. During the summer months the temperatures range from the low 70's to the 100 degree mark with a mean of 80 degrees. In the winter, the mean temperature is 60 degrees with occasional freezing weather from November to March. Rainfall averages 27 inches per year, with the majority occurring from October through March.

A-6. Transportation to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

a. You are permitted to bring your privately owned vehicle (POV) to the course. Even though parking is limited at the AMEDDC&S, having a POV is useful for commuting to and from the AMEDDC&S, taking care of business, and for recreational purposes. Both San Antonio and FSH, TX are quite large and a POV is certainly a convenience.

b. If you elect to drive to FSH, TX, and your orders authorize a POV, be sure to save receipts for expenses incurred while en route. However, in some circumstances, U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard personnel, reimbursement for travel will be equal to a one way plane ticket at the government rate.

c. You may also choose to travel to FSH, TX on government provided transportation. This is done by presenting a copy of your orders to the Transportation Officer at the nearest military installation. You will be given a Government Travel Request (GTR) which you then exchange for a ticket from the commercial carrier specified on the GTR. If in PCS (TDY Enroute), be sure to bring a copy of the GTR with you to FSH, TX so you will be able to complete your finance during in-processing.

A-7. Reporting.

a. You should plan to arrive at FSH, TX as early in the day as possible on the date specified on your orders.

b. All officers report to Building 592, Billeting. Inprocessing is scheduled from 1300-1700 hours.

c. You must have a copy of your Phase I Certificate of Completion available during inprocessing.

d. You will be required to weigh in during inprocessing - the weigh in will be done in the Army physical fitness uniform.